

Remarks

Request for Reconsideration

Applicants have carefully considered the matters raised by Examiner in the outstanding Office Action, but remain of the position that patentable subject matter is present. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of Examiner's position based on the amendments to the claims, a new declaration and the following remarks.

Oath/Declaration

The Examiner noted the declaration submitted contained a typographical error. Specifically, the foreign priority claimed is to DE 199 29 893.3 and the declaration stated DE 199 29 896.3.

A new fully executed declaration is attached with this response.

Claim Status

Claims 1-38 had been canceled. Claims 39-44 have been amended and claim 45 has been added. Claims 40, 41 and 44 have been amended only for grammatical reasons. Details of the other amendments will be discussed further below.

Claim Objections

Claims 39 and 42 had been objected to because of the following informalities: (1) regarding claim 39, --inclined-- should be inserted before "retaining" in line 29 and a comma should be inserted after "projection" in line 35 and after "panel" in line 37; and (2) regarding claim 42, the first occurrence of "the" in lines 3 and 6 should be --an--, a

comma should be inserted after “panel” in line 5, the second occurrence of “the” in lines 5 and 8 should --an--, and the first occurrence of “the” in line 8 should be --a--.

Claims 39 and 42 have been amended herein.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 43 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner stated the recitation “intermediate spaces provided with clearance” in line 2 is unclear.

Claim 43 has been amended herein. As amended, claim 43 is now deemed clear.

Claim Rejections - § 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 39-41 and 44 had been rejected as unpatentable over Choppe (FR 2,278,867) in view of Wilson (U.S. Patent 2,430,200).

Claim 39 has been amended herein. As disclosed in claim 39, the claimed invention has a space between the second hook projection, which is connected to the second hook panel by the second leg on the lower portion of the edge of the second panel and the first leg connected to the first panel at the upper portion of the first panel. The Examiner noted Choppe does not disclose this feature and turned to Wilson, stating Wilson taught such a space. However, the space in Wilson and the space in the claim invention are distinguishable.

The space of the claimed invention extends between the inside edge of the first panel and the end of the leg of the second projection toward the underside of the panel and fastening system. The additional space provides for an additional adhesive pocket,

which aids in bonding and further securing the two panels. Wilson does not disclose such an additional space. The space of Wilson labeled A1 by the Examiner does not extend between two panels. The area beyond the space in Wilson is merely open space.


Moreover, Choppe does not disclose the additional space. The design of Choppe does not require such a space, and to incorporate such a space in Choppe would change the design and assembly of Choppe. The additional space of the claimed invention was not an aspect of design considered by Choppe and to incorporate the feature of the claimed invention into Choppe now would be more than what one skill in the art at the time of the invention would have contemplated. Thus, the claimed invention is distinguishable from Choppe in view of Wilson and patentable over the prior art references.

Additionally, claim 45 has been added, which discloses the inclined adhesive pocket (12h) formed between the inwardly inclined end of the first panel and the outwardly inclined area of the second panel, which mates with the end of the first panel at the top side and extends downward toward the leg of the second panel. None of the prior art references disclose an adhesive pocket of this configuration or at such a location.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any extensions of time or fees be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit Account Number 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,
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